



Newsletter of the

Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

November 2016

IMM CONTACTS

ithacamonthlymeeting.org

Meetinghouse:

120 Third Street • Ithaca NY 14850
607-229-9500

Clerk:

Antonia Saxon • 607-387-5244
clerk@ithacamonthlymeeting.org
Box 167 • T-burg, NY 14886

Assistant Clerks:

Marilyn Ray • 607-539-7778
mlr17@cornell.edu
John Lewis • 607-227-6273
johnsherwood@yahoo.com

Treasurer:

Mike Simkin
607-387-5174 • mes13@cornell.edu
3137 Jacksonville Rd • T-burg, NY 14886

Ministry & Worship:

Chuck Mohler
607-539-6454 • clm11@cornell.edu

Pastoral Care:

Emily Williams • 703.297.9849
ewy310@gmail.com

Childcare Requests:

Ellie Rosenberg • 277-1024
ellierosenberg7@gmail.com

Burt House, 227 N Willard Way

Angela Hopkins
angelaforestglenn@yahoo.com
607-273-5421 (pref) • 215-510-5334 (cell)

Listserv:

To join our email list for solely for meeting-related announcements, send an email message addressed to:

IMMRSF-L-request@cornell.edu

with message body as simply: join

Marilyn's List:

To email Friends and others non-specifically Quaker messages that may be of interest to Friends, consider sending your message through Marilyn Ray. To join or contribute, email:

mlr17@cornell.edu

Day of Silent Prayer and Reflection on Election Day

Ithaca Meeting is hosting a Day of Silent Prayer and Reflection on November 8th, Election Day. We will be joined by members of Ithaca Area Clergy, especially around lunchtime. The Third Street meetinghouse will be open during polling hours, 6am to 9pm, to welcome passers-by and anyone you might like to invite.

The idea for this grew out of a conviction which arose around the time of the Jewish High Holy Days, roughly forty days before the election. The leading was that people of faith, people of good will, people who care about the well-being of all, have something to offer to counteract the climate of fear mongering, bigotry and general negativity which envelops us. George Fox wrote that it is the Light which shows us the “darkness, death, temptations, the unrighteous... and then spiritual discernment [comes].” We are called not to turn away from what is wrong, but to face it, hold it up to the Light, understand it; then we will see the way beyond, guided by Spirit in our speaking and actions.

Several Friends have signed up to assure that the house will be open. If you care to do that, click on <http://bit.ly/2eicP5Y> or contact Bronwyn Mohlke at BJQMohlke@gmail.com /220-3219 to let us know when you will be at the Meetinghouse. Of course you can also come without signing up. (For a four-minute morale booster, you might want to start with <http://quakerspeak.com/why-do-quakers-care-about-politics>.)

We envisage having soup, bread, fruit, and other simple foods that participants would bring to share; but no program, no discussion. We will maintain the silence while eating.

— Nancy Gabriel



November in IMM History

A look back at our history through the minutes of our monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

5 Years Ago (November 13, 2011)

IMM approved a proposal from the Nominating Committee to make Greeters a new committee. Previously Greeters were a part of the Hospitality Committee.

20 Years Ago (November 11, 1996)

Mary Beth Tierney was welcomed into membership of IMM.

An ad hoc committee on non-cash gifts and loans to the Burt House convened by Steve Mohlke reported on its deliberations. They found the Burt House Committee to be the most appropriate committee for considering such gifts and loans, and they gave several recommended guidelines to be used in considering such gifts: (1) keeping the space of the house simple and functional in keeping with Friends' heritage and conducive to worship and meditation, (2) discussing with the prospective donor of the gift where and for how long the donated or loaned item would be displayed and what should be done with the item after that time, and (3) keeping all discussions sensitive to the leadings and wishes of the proposed donor as well as to residents of the house. It was suggested at the Business Meeting that insofar as possible, parallel procedure be applied to any proposed gifts or loans to the Hector Meeting House.

25 Years Ago (November 11, 1991)

IMM approved that the Burt House Committee become a standing committee of the Meeting.

40 Years Ago (November 8, 1976)

IMM decided to hold a Meeting for Worship at the County Jail on the second and fourth Sundays of each month.

70 Years Ago (November 11, 1946)

Jacksonville Friends, Theodore Oliver, Clerk, sent a letter of appreciation to IMM Friends who worked on the Jacksonville Meetinghouse and grounds this past summer. [Note: Theodore Oliver was also active in IMM and served as IMM clerk from 1950-52. IMM members frequently referred to the Hector Meeting as the Jacksonville Meeting during this time.]

75 Years Ago (November 17, 1941)

Young Friends reported that they had made 90 quarts of applesauce for the Civilian Public Service camp at Cooperstown. Meeting members also supplied a clinical thermometer and other articles needed by the camp. A group of 11 members and attenders from Meeting delivered these gifts on a recent First Day and had supper with those at the camp.

— Tom Brown, Meeting Historian

Giving to IMM

To set up electronic donations, simply complete the authorization form on the below and return it to the Treasurer: Mike Simkin, 3137 Jacksonville Rd, Trumansburg, NY 14886. Donations can be debited automatically from either a checking or savings account.

AUTHORIZATION FORM	
Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends Inc. ES14909	
Your name:	
Address:	
City, State, Zip:	
Email address:	
I would like to make the following contribution(s):	
<input type="checkbox"/> General Operating Fund	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Building Fund	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Kitchen Cupboard _____	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	\$ _____
Total	
Date of first contribution: ___/___/___	
Frequency of contribution (check one):	
<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly – Mondays	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bi-Weekly (every other week)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Semi-monthly – 1 st and 15 th	
<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 1 st	
<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 15 th	
CHECKING / SAVINGS Complete this section if using your checking or savings account	
Please debit my (check one):	
<input type="checkbox"/> Checking account—attach voided check <input type="checkbox"/> Savings account—attach voided deposit slip	
Routing #:	Account #:
Valid routing # must start with 0,1,2 or 3	
I authorize the above organization to process debit entries to the above account. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification to terminate the authorization.	
Authorized signature: _____ Date: / /	

Hey Kids! Powell House Scholarships Available

This school year the “children in the life of the Meeting committee” (CALM) of IMM has set up a fund that allows every family, no matter what their situation or need, to send their teens, aged 12 to 18, to a Powell House conference for free. Each child attending a free conference may offer a scholarship to a friend of the same age who is not necessarily an active Quaker. To register for a free conference, each applicant must complete the application form for that conference and check the box that states that the Ithaca Meeting will cover the cost. Powell House will send an invoice to IMM treasurer, Mike Simkin, who will use money from our scholarship fund to pay Powell House.

Sweepers needed to help care for our Meetinghouse

For many years a group of F/friends have taken time out of their schedules to keep our Third Street Meetinghouse tidy and ready for Meeting for Worship each week. Melody Johnson has been the leader and scheduler of this group of Sweepers, but after many years of service in this role, Melody is laying down the task of organizing the sweepers. All of us on TSMC are extremely grateful to Melody for her many years of dedication and service!

There is a need for more people to volunteer as Sweepers. The tasks are not difficult or too time consuming. Some F/friends sweep together and use the time for socializing and fellowship. This is also a job that adults and children can do together. If you'd like more information, please contact Melissa Travis Dunham, at mtravis823@yahoo.com or 607-277-9599 for more details or to volunteer.

— *Melissa Travis Dunham*

Updating the Meeting Directory

Friends, it is time for an updated directory! Please get in touch with one of us to let us know if you need to be added to the directory, or have your contact information updated.

Sue Baker-Carr / sbaker-carr@twcny.rr.com / 607.379.3600

Bronwyn Mohlke / BJQMohlke@gmail.com / 220-3219

Gina Varrichio / zealth_1@yahoo.com / 272-2512

Youth Programs at Fall Sessions

The theme for the young Friends' programs during NYYM Fall Sessions is, “Sharing Our Stories: Past, Present and Future.”

Youth programs are available for those 0 to 18 years of age. There will be teen overnights Friday and Saturday at Purchase Meetinghouse. Please visit <http://www.nyym.org/?q=FallSessions2016#registration>. For more information, please be in touch with Mary Eagleson, mleagleson@aol.com or 914-328-7943. Registration is due at the end of October, so don't delay reaching out.

Canandaigua Treaty Celebration

Historic Canandaigua Treaty will Celebrate its 222nd year on November 11th in Canandaigua. In 1794, the United States signed a federal treaty that brought about peace between the Haudenosaunee (Six Nations Confederacy) and the United States, each recognizing the sovereignty of the other to govern and set laws as distinct nations. The anniversary celebration is a time to re-dedicate ourselves and “polish the chain of peace and friendship.” Treaties are the supreme Law of the Land between nations. They are binding, current, and vibrant agreements.

1:30 pm Those who wish to march from the Canandaigua Primary School to the Ontario County Courthouse for the ceremony.

2:00 pm The traditional commemoration ceremony takes place on the lawn.

12:00-4:00 pm View an original copy of the treaty and relevant letters

10:30-5:00 pm Native American art and craft sale at the Canandaigua Primary School gym

6:00 pm in the Canandaigua Primary School auditorium

Photographer Alex Hamer (Oneida) will narrate his “Photos from Standing Rock: Documenting the Dakota Access Pipeline Water Protectors”

Doug George (Mohawk) will be speaking about the White Pine Tree of Peace

— *Susan Wolf*

Be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations, wherever you go, so that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people, and to them. Then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in every one.

— *George Fox, 1624-1691*

Notes from the Informational Portion of the October 9, 2016 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

A Friend asked about the Friends Center for Racial Justice (FCRJ) Coordinating Committee composition. Presenters affirmed that the FCRJ will be based in NYYM committees, but is expected to grow. The initial NYYM committees involved include European American Quakers Working to End Racism Working Group; the Prisons Committee; Task Group on Racism; Indian Affairs Committee; and Friends' Committee for Black Concerns.

A Friend asked about the legal incorporation of the FCRJ. Presenters suggested that the FCRJ would operate under the IMM before seeking incorporation and its own non-profit status.

A Friend asked about the number of staff and tenants who might be involved in the FCRJ at the Burt House. The presenters suggested that the discussion is currently about just one staff member. There is currently one other resident.

A Friend asked about telephone bills and especially long-distance at the Burt House. A presenter indicated that the Burt House phone does not have long-distance.

A Friend asked for clarification for how the Meeting would coordinate with the FCRJ about the maintenance needs of the building. The assumption is that the Friend-in-Residence would continue to meet with the Burt House Committee.

A Friend indicated that the Burt House Committee has had policy oversight regarding the use of the Burt House, such as related to smoking and alcohol. Presenters suggested that this has not been fully discussed, but that this might be directed to the Burt House Committee.

A Friend asked if there was an idea of connecting with local organizations who are interested in racial justice, but who are not Quaker. Presenters indicated that the focus would be on Quakers, but there is considerable interest in developing opportunities for others in our community, such as through workshops.

A Friend articulated a lack of clarity regarding the balance of control between the Ithaca Monthly Meeting and the FCRJ. Presenters responded that the heart of this proposal involves us, as a Meeting, letting go. That said, it is expected that we will find interest in participating in the activities of FCRJ. Further, while IMM will not have oversight over the FCRJ, there will be communication between IMM and the FCRJ.

A Friend asked what is the market value of the Burt House, and what share of our assets is represented by the House. Friends responded that the house is assessed at \$620,000, and this represents approximately half of our total assets.

A Friend wanted to know more about what input people of color have provided in the development of the FCRJ proposal. The question was raised whether the members of the NYYM committees have sufficient representation of people of color. Local people of color have not been consulted, since this is a Quaker initiative.

A Friend asked what the phrase "racial justice" signifies. Presenters indicated that the initiative is designed to amplify the voices of Friends of color as well as to welcome other people of color in our Quaker communities.

A Friend asked about whether Friends have investigated either selling the Burt House to this group or leasing it to this group. Presenters said no, in part because the FCRJ is not a group that currently exists. The proposal has developed from the confluence of several threads, including our history of asking "What can we do with the Burt House?"

A Friend asked how other activities of the Meeting might be accommodated in the Burt House in the new model. For example, if we wanted to offer housing for a formerly incarcerated person, how would that work? Presenters suggested that we could of course change direction in the future, but we are looking to hand programmatic control to the FCRJ for some period, such as three years. Thus, these kinds of significant initiatives of IMM would be subject to the approval to FCRJ in this model.

A Friend asked about the plan regarding the individual, a refugee from the Congo, who is currently living in the Burt House. Presenters indicated that this conversation has not yet happened.

A Friend speculated about the logistics relating to sojourners. A presenter indicated that the current IMM Budget targets \$5000 in income related to tenants and sojourners, but year-to-date sojourner income is quite far below that number. We could consider different models for considering tenants, sojourners and income. There is some padding in our resources which would allow us to take some time to figure this out.

A Friend asked about the future of the many books kept at the Burt House. Clerk indicated that this should be added to the list of questions that need to be worked out.

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, October 9, 2016

2016 10.1 Gathering. Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met in Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on October 9, 2016. At 12:20 pm, thirty-two Friends gathered. Clerk recognized Nancy Gabriel and Holly White and other Friends not in the room who were holding the Meeting in the Light.

Clerk read the words of Sarah Mapps Douglass (1806–1882), a Friend of Color:

"I have frequently heard my mother say that very many of our people are inclined to Friends' mode of worship; she lamented the unchristian conduct that kept them out. Some have gone out from 'Friends,' not because they prefer their own meetings where they regularly hear 'singing and preaching,' but because they could not bear the cross of sitting on the 'black bench.' Ah, there are many poor stray starving sheep, wandering in this world's wilderness, who would gladly come to your green pastures, and repose them by your Stillwater; did not prejudice bar the entrance! I am persuaded the Lord has a controversy with Friends on this account. Let them see to it."

Friends settled into worship.

2016 10.2 Use of the Burtt House for the Friends' Center for Racial Justice

Clerk indicated that the first part of our meeting would focus on information, questions and answers.

Nancy Riffer and Steve Mohlke alternated reading a question-and-answer document relating to the use of the Friends' Center for Racial Justice. The document described that Friends of Ithaca Monthly Meeting have felt called to racial justice work for several years, and especially since we moved into our new meetinghouse in 2011. This past spring, a proposal to use the Burtt House as the Friends Center for Racial Justice (FCRJ) was first drafted.

The proposed FCRJ will be a free-standing organization in the way the American Friends Service Committee is separate from other Quaker bodies. Thus, the FCRJ will not be under the aegis of the Burtt House Committee, Ithaca Monthly Meeting, nor even New York Yearly Meeting. The proposed FCRJ would be governed by a Coordinating Committee made up of representatives from the five New York Yearly Meeting committees whose work focuses on issues of racial justice. The goal is for the Coordinating Committee to comprise people of color. It is anticipated that as the FCRJ grows, Coordinating Committee members will come from other yearly meetings.

Ithaca Monthly Meeting would retain ownership of the Burtt House and responsibility for its maintenance, while giving the FCRJ oversight relating to the programmatic use of the house. For an interim period, IMM would hold funds on behalf of the FCRJ until such a time as the FCRJ has its own banking account.

Steve Mohlke read the following proposed minute:

"IMM embraces the leading for a Friends Center for Racial Justice (FCRJ). In support of this leading IMM:

- Makes the Burtt House available for a FCRJ for three years with the expectation of extending. IMM expects the discussion about extending to take place at around two years.
- Expects that the current tenant and associated income will remain for the foreseeable future. When the current tenant leaves, IMM and FCRFJ will discuss options.
- Formal communication between the FCRJ Coordinating Committee and IMM will be through the Burtt House Committee
- The IMM treasurer will maintain a fund on behalf of the FCRJ. When the FCRJ is ready to maintain its own bank account, IMM will transfer all money in that fund.
- FCRJ will be responsible for all administration and expenses associated with staff, though may choose to delegate responsibility to others."

Clerk provided some additional context about the formulation of this plan, and invited Friends to ask questions of Nancy, Steve and Karen Friedeborn.

Friends asked many questions, small and large, about oversight, logistics, revenues and decision-making process. An account of these questions and their answers, however partial, were noted in a separate document (see page 4).

With awareness that many questions remain, Clerk closed the information segment of our Meeting and invited Friends to spend the next portion of our Meeting sharing our general feelings about this proposal.

Friends took a brief break followed by a period of silent worship.

From the silence, Friends shared messages relating to the Burtt House, racial justice, the process that has brought forth the proposal before us, and the prospects for the future. Friends spoke of "planting a seed" and of serving as an incubator, but expressed concern for long-term implications of bringing forth such substantial obligations, both for our Meeting and for a Coordinating Committee comprising busy Friends outside of Ithaca. Friends felt that the sense of haste inhering in this proposal challenges the Quaker process of Spirit-led decision-making. Friends wondered about other options for the Burtt House, for addressing the questions of racial justice, and for facilitating the re-entry of former prisoners into society.

After further consideration, Friends approved the minute as it was proposed, with one Friend requesting to be recorded as standing aside. @

2016 10.3 Closing

Twenty Friends settled into silent worship at 3:45 before adjourning. Our next regular Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held at the rise of Meeting on November 13, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Marin Clarkberg

Women's Chair Yoga, Mondays and Thursdays 11a-noon

Women of all ages are welcome to gather for gentle, yet powerful restoration of heart, mind, soul, strength. Laughter likely. No experience or equipment needed. Just come, or if you have questions ask Nancy Gabriel (339-7123; ntg2@cornell.edu.) We offer a donation to the teacher.

Gary Rith Pottery, November 25-26

IMM member Gary Rith is hosting an open pottery studio November 25-26, from 11-4. There will be demos and pots, lots of pots! Gary and Maude live just outside Ithaca at 540 Main St., Etna, NY, (route 366 just north of route 13 and NYSEG, a light green house). Email garyrith@yahoo.com or call 607-347-6444

November 2016 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

Tips for Saving Energy and our Planet Sunday, November 6, Rise of Meeting

Got questions about going solar, carbon-free transportation, free energy audits, or other ways to save energy and help our planet? Want support figuring out what incentives you qualify for to make your home more energy efficient? Come to this discussion with your questions. Wendy Wolfe and Laurence Clarkberg will share some of what they learned through a 10-week Energy Navigator course and provide you with access to useful, locally relevant, research-based information and resources. A light lunch will be provided.

Day of Silent Prayer and Reflection Tuesday, November 8, 6a-9p

Join in silent prayer and reflection on the occasion of our national elections. Bring food to share if so moved, but there is to be no program and no discussion. See page 1 for more information.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Sunday, November 13, Rise of Meeting

Join in the Quaker decision-making process. Agenda items should be sent to our clerk, Antonia Saxon, by the preceding Wednesday.

Vegetarian Thanksgiving Thursday, November 24, 4p

Join Friends for a dish-to-pass, casual Thanksgiving dinner with fellowship at the Third Street Meetinghouse. All dishes should be vegetarian.

Dish-to-Pass Brunch Sunday, November 27, Rise of Meeting

Bring something tasty to share if you can. All are welcome.

Newsletter Deadline Thursday, December 1, 5p

Please send your newsletter contributions to Marin Clarkberg at clarkberg@cornell.edu, or 150 Giles Street, Ithaca NY 14850.

On Sundays

- 10:20a **First Day School** gathers upstairs at Third Street.
- 10:30a **Meeting for Worship** at the Third Street Meetinghouse
- 11:15a **First Day School** attenders enter the meetingroom for intergenerational Meeting for Worship.

Other Weekly IMM Events

- Wed 7:30p **Meeting for worship** at the Burrtt House, 227 N. Willard Way